CHRISTIANS, JEWS ***VOTE NO*** ON AMENDMENT 2

A vocal group of conservative Christians recently introduced a proposal to amend the Constitution of the State of Colorado. Some local church members have spoken compellingly in support of the proposed amendment, which would read:

> *Neither the State of Colorado, through any of its branches or departments, nor any of its agencies, political sub-divisions, municipalities, or school districts, shall enact, adopt, or enforce any statute, regulation, ordinance, or policy whereby homosexual, lesbian, or bisexual orientation, conduct, practices, or relationships shall constitute or otherwise be the basis of, or entitle any person or class of persons to have or claim any minority status or claim of discrimination.*

We, listed here, believe that we have become informed and educated on both sides of this issue. We have listened to representatives of Coloradans for Family Values and read their literature. Some of us have also watched the videotape they show. We also read about or spoke with members of Equal Protection of Colorado, a group which opposes the amendment and supports gay and lesbian rights.

We are local Christians and Jews who have decided to ***VOTE NO*** on the amendment to Article 2, and we will encourage others to do the same. Our vote is not a conclusion for or against homosexuality. Rather, our conclusion is based on several beliefs about civil rights:

- No citizen of the State of Colorado should be excluded from making a *claim of discrimination.* Our Constitution promises "equal protection" not "special privileges." We see no reason to change it.
- The "family values" implicit in this amendment do not create healthy family life. Hostility, fear, intolerance, segregation, and revocation of basic civil rights are inimical to the love and compassion that are at the heart of the Judeo-Christian tradition.
- Debates among Christians and Jews about issues such as homosexuality ought to consider all aspects of the issues, but should not result in Jim Crow-like laws or State-sanctioned discrimination. The best of any religion promotes tolerance, not prejudice.

When the civil rights of any group is threatened, it behooves us all to resist, lest we be the next group censured. Martin Niemoeller, a Protestant minister in Nazi Germany put it this way:

> First they came for the Jews, but I wasn't a Jew, so I didn't react. Then they came for the communists, but I wasn't a communist, so I didn't object. Then they came for the homosexuals, but I wasn't a homosexual, so I didn't stand up. Then they came for the political activists, but I wasn't a political activist, to I didn't protest. Then they came for me...and by that time no one was left to stand up.

I want to sign the above statement which will appear in the *Gazette Telegraph* and contribute $10 (or more) to the cost of the ad.

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Here is $_____ to help pay for the ad. _____ I do not have $10 but want to be included

_____ I want my name printed as above _____ It is okay to list my title

_____ I want to be listed "Anonymous"

• Clip and mail this to: Vote No On 2, P.O. Box 6301, Colorado Springs, CO 80934 •